

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 64
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to urge the United States Congress to require, where applicable, that United States government uniforms and equipment be manufactured in the United States.

WHEREAS, It is with great pride and honor that the hardworking employees of American factories craft the uniforms and equipment that clothe and protect the members of the United States government; and

WHEREAS, To take that privilege away from those Americans who ceaselessly toil to fulfill their patriotic duty to the men and women who serve our fine country is a grievous insult to the American people; and

WHEREAS, On October 28, 2002, Fechheimer Brothers Manufacturing Company in Martin learned that one of its largest accounts, the United States Postal Service, had certified a new supplier of postal uniforms, San Francisco Knitting Mills-one that cuts costs by manufacturing the product outside the United States; and

WHEREAS, According to a memo from Fechheimer President and CEO, Brad Kinstler, San Francisco Knitting Mills is "the first manufacturer to venture outside of the U.S. to make

products for the postal market," an action which may result in setting a dangerous precedent; and

WHEREAS, The Fechheimer-Martin plant, formerly Martin Manufacturing Company, is one of four plants owned by the Fechheimer Corporation of Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Three of the plants-Martin, Tennessee, Jefferson, Pennsylvania, and Grantsville, Maryland-manufacture uniform shirts. The corporation's plant in Hodgenville, Kentucky manufactures uniform trousers; and

WHEREAS, Twenty percent of the Fechheimer Brothers Manufacturing Company's annual production consists of the Postal Service's purchases; the loss of the contract with the Postal Service could result in massive layoffs at the plant, possibly up to twenty percent of the company's 200 workers, which would then put a crimp in the local economy; and

WHEREAS, Plant Manager Marc Lemacks describes Fechheimer Brothers Manufacturing Company as the "Cadillac of the industry," a corporation that consistently provides its clients and customers with quality products and service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lemacks is aware of no complaints from the United States Postal Service in regards to the uniforms produced by his company; instead, he fears the Postal Service's decision to change suppliers is based on an attempt to secure a lower price with an offshore company; and

WHEREAS, Not only will transferring production of Postal Service uniforms to another country rob the American people of their jobs and livelihoods, but it will result in a decrease in revenue to the American government through the loss of taxes paid by American workers; and

WHEREAS, It is crucial that the production of uniforms and equipment for United States government workers remain in American factories, for the producing and wearing of American-made products strengthens the morale of both government and civil service workers, boosts the country's economy, and manifests the pride of the American government toward its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to resolve this important issue and require that government uniforms and equipment be manufactured in the United States, thus saving the jobs of myriad Americans and strengthening the national economy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be transmitted forthwith to the President of the United States, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and to each member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation.